

# **Weights and Measures Division**

## **Tips for Buying and Selling Firewood**



The days are getting shorter, and the temperature is dropping which means winter is just around the corner and if you have a wood stove or furnace, it's also time to start stocking up on wood. Because so many people don't have the time or resources to cut their own wood, the Weights and Measures Division of the Montana Department of Labor and Industry has some tips for buying and selling wood.

The only legal measurement and representation of firewood in Montana is a "cord" and fractional parts of a cord. A cord is the amount of firewood contained in 128 cubic feet of space when the firewood is tightly stacked.

To be sure you have a cord, stack the wood neatly by placing wood in a line or in a row, with individual pieces touching and parallel to each other, making sure that the wood is compact and has as few gaps as possible. Then measure the stack. If the width times the height, times the length equals 128 cubic feet, you have a cord of firewood.

When you purchase your fire wood, the seller is required to give you a sales invoice that provides:

- The name and address of the vendor
- The name and address of the purchaser
- The date delivered
- The quantity delivered and the quantity upon which the price is based, if this differs from the delivered quantity
- The price of the amount delivered
- The identity of the wood in the most descriptive terms commercially used, including any quality representation made in connection with the sale.

If you think you have been short-changed contact the seller to discuss the matter. If the seller can't or won't correct the problem, contact the State of Montana Weights and Measurements Bureau at (406) 841-2240 before you burn any wood. It is also helpful to document the possible shortage by taking pictures of the stacked wood.